Planning a Research Project During the Age of COVID-19

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BY EVAN MARDELL
The identity construction and negotiation of Anglo-Québécois migrants to Ontario, within the past 45 years.

How language ideology and provincial migration has shaped identity and belonging among Anglo-Québécois (primary English speakers from Québec).

The peculiarity of linguistic minority status of Québec Anglophones -- provincially, but not federally.
My Initial Vision

In-Person Interviews

- I was planning to have access to a vehicle over this past summer and drive out to meet participants for interviews.

Participant Observation

- I was planning to take part in family events with participants or get togethers with their friends who had also migrated from Québec.

Analysis of News Articles

- I planned to collect news articles related to my research topic, over a period of time from the Quiet Revolution, up to the present day.
What I Ended Up Doing

Zoom and Telephone Interviews
- All interviews were conducted at home.

Discourse Analysis of Interview Transcripts and News Articles
- For transcription I have been using Phillips Pro Transcribe and a foot pedal.
- The coding software I am using is NVivo 12.

Linguistic Landscapes and Symbolic Power
- I heard many stories about language change of street signage in my interviews.

Evocative Objects [Sherry Turkle (2011)]
- I have found a pattern of participants bringing up the same kinds of objects that they find evocative.
What I Ended Up Doing and What I Could Have Done

- In a lot of ways my research didn't change very much.

- The most challenging thing: dealing with the shock of what was going on with Covid back in March.

- 'Keep calm and carry on’ but also don’t be afraid to ask for help.

- I wrote my ethics application and thesis proposal regularly, then added COVID options.

- Other ideas and suggestions could have better supplemented participant observation data.

  (e.g. Zoom focus groups, a ride along with my family back to Québec, reaching out to Ex-Montrealer Facebook groups, shared writing projects with the participants)
This Year is the 50th Anniversary of the October Crisis

https://open.spotify.com/show/7DykWVny2dtdT8OnU3cBB0?si=0hPN5uUUSZyr0nxr4tRRQg

https://thewalrus.ca/guilty-memories-from-an-anglo-montreal-childhood/

Tips

- Use citation software (e.g. Mendeley) and look at Scrivener.
- Get a good quality webcam, external storage devices, a foot pedal, and an audio recorder.

Positive Things (the “upside”)

- Participants were readily available for interviews since many people are working from home.
- More convenient to not have to travel to conduct interviews.
- Zoom or telephone interview make it easier to have your questions out in-front of you.

- Add verbal consent as an option to your ethics application.
- Get ethics approval sooner rather than later.
- Become an even greater listener.
- Pay attention in theory class when reading about online ethnography.
Questions?